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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, SNAR, IT, US
SUBJECT: ITALY-U.S. WORKING GROUP: VICE PRIME MINISTER
FORLANI'S PROPOSED TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT

2. AMBASSADOR RABB MET WITH VICE PRIME MINISTER FORLANI
JANUARY 19 JUST BEFORE FORLANI MET WITH ~~CECEL~~ RANGEL. IN
DISCUSSING DATES FOR FORLANI'S PROPOSED TRAVEL TO THE
UNITED STATES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE JOINT WORKING GROUP
TO COMBAT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, FORLANI INDICATED THAT,
BECAUSE OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PLANNED FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY,
HE WOULD PREFER TO GO IN EARLY MARCH. HE WOULD THEN BE
ABLE TO SETTLE ALL ISSUES RELATED TO THE WORKING GROUP
WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. (WE HAVE SINCE TOLD FORLANI'S
OFFICE THAT MARCH IS STILL A GOOD PLANNING DATE, SUBJECT
TO CONFIRMATION FROM THE NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL.)

3. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT MARCH IS WELL INTO THE
PRIMARY ELECTION SEASON IN THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THE
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT AND OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS
WILL HAVE HEAVY SCHEDULES. WHILE FORLANI UNDERSTOOD THE
TIME DEMANDS ON THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, IT WAS
CLEAR HE STILL HOPED MEETINGS WITH THEM WOULD BE POSSIBLE
IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS VISIT.

4. SEE SEPTTEL FOR FURTHER REPORTING ON THE STATUS OF THE
WORKING GROUP.

RABB
END OF MESSAGE

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State Dept. review completed

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